Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claims 1-12 (Canceled).

13. (Currently amended) An apparatus for repairing a valve in a patient's body, the valve having a plurality of movable leaflets, the leaflets having a superior surface on a first side and an inferior surface on an opposing side, the apparatus comprising:

a pair of articulating arms coupled together and movable from an open position in which portions of the articulating arms are spaced apart to a closed position in which the portions of the articulating arms are closer together, said arms being configured to engage the inferior surfaces of the leaflets and hold the leaflets in a coapted configuration in which portions of the superior surfaces are facing each other;

wherein the articulating arms are implantable in the patient's body to maintain the leaflets in ~~the~~ a coapted configuration; and

a control mechanism operatively coupled to the articulating arms and adapted to open and close the pair of articulating arms, wherein the arms can be closed to engage the leaflets and thereafter be opened to allow release of the leaflets.

14. (Currently amended) The apparatus of claim 13 further comprising a central member, the articulating arms being movably coupled to the central member.

15. (Currently amended) The apparatus of claim 14 wherein the articulating arms are configured to clamp the leaflets between the articulating arms and the central member in the closed position.

16. (Original) The apparatus of claim 14 wherein the central member is configured to be positioned through the valve between the leaflets.

17. (Currently amended) The apparatus of claim 14 wherein the central member is detachably coupled to a shaft adapted for delivering the articulating arms into the heart.

18. (Currently amended) The apparatus of claim 17 further comprising a pair of superior elements movably coupled to the central member, the superior elements being configured to engage the superior surfaces whereby the leaflets may be pinched between the articulating arms and the superior elements.

19. (Previously presented) The apparatus of claim 18 wherein the superior elements are coupled to a conduit slidably coupled to the central member.

20. (Previously presented) The apparatus of claim 18 wherein the superior elements are resiliently biased into an extended configuration in which portions of the superior elements are spaced apart from the central member for engaging the superior surfaces of the leaflets.

21. (Currently amended) The apparatus of claim 13 wherein the articulating arms have engaging surfaces for engaging the surfaces of the leaflets.

22. (Original) The apparatus of claim 21 wherein the engaging surfaces have a texture or teeth for enhancing friction.

23. (Original) The apparatus of claim 17 wherein the shaft is flexible and configured for positioning through a blood vessel into the heart.

24. (Currently amended) The apparatus of claim 23 wherein the shaft, articulating arms and central member are slidably positionable through an endovascular sheath.

Claims 25-59 (Canceled).

60. (Currently amended) An apparatus for repairing a valve in a patient's body, the valve having a plurality of moveable leaflets, the leaflets having a superior surface on a first side and an inferior surface on an opposing side, the apparatus comprising:

a pair of articulating arms coupled together and being moveable from an open position in which portions of the articulating arms are spaced apart to a closed position in which the portions of the articulating arms are closer together, the arms being configured to engage the inferior surfaces of the leaflets and hold the leaflets in a coapted configuration in which portions of the superior surfaces are facing each other; ~~and~~

a control mechanism operatively coupled to the articulating arms and adapted to open and close the pair of articulating arms; and

a pair of superior elements movably coupled ~~to a central member~~, the superior elements configured to engage the superior surfaces whereby the leaflets may be engaged between the articulating arms and the superior elements,

wherein the articulating arms and superior elements can be closed to engage the leaflets and thereafter be opened to allow release and recapture of the leaflets prior to implantation ~~are implantable~~ in the patient's body to maintain the leaflets in the coapted configuration ~~and wherein the arms and the superior elements are moved independently of one another~~.

61. (Currently amended) The apparatus of claim 60, wherein the articulating arms having engaging surfaces for engaging the surfaces of the leaflets.

62. (Currently amended) The apparatus of claim 61, wherein the articulating arms engage the surfaces of the leaflets without penetration thereof.

63. (Previously presented) The apparatus of claim 61, wherein the engaging surfaces have a texture or teeth for enhancing friction.

64. (Currently amended) The apparatus of claim 60, wherein the articulating arms and superior elements are slidably positionable through an endovascular sheath.

65. (Currently amended) The apparatus of claim 60, wherein the articulating arms and superior elements are slidably positionable through a blood vessel into the heart.

66. (Currently amended) The apparatus of claim 21, wherein the articulating arms engage the surfaces without penetration thereof.

67. (New) The apparatus of claim 60, wherein the articulating arms and the superior elements are moved independently of one another.

68. (New) The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the control mechanism is adapted to open and close each articulating arm independently.

69. (New) The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the control mechanism is adapted to open and close the pair of articulating arms in tandem.

70. (New) The apparatus of claim 60, wherein the control mechanism is adapted to open and close each articulating arm independently.

71. (New) The apparatus of claim 60, wherein the control mechanism is adapted to open and close the articulating arms in tandem.